

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 DOTE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

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DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15

SAM-01 IO-13 /106 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2730

INFO /AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1315

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 3023

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TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, SU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S SPEECH ON OCCASION OF 5TH
ANNIVERSARY OF INAUGURATION

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NIMEIRI ORATION ON OCCASION 5TH
ANNIVERSARY OF HIS INAUGURATION (A NATIONAL HOLIDAY)
FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS REGIME. TREATMENT OF
FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES WAS MODERATE AND CONTAINED NO
SURPRISES. AUDIENCE RESPONSE WAS APATHETIC, DUE
EXTREME HEAT, WELTER OF STATISTICS INCLUDED AND FACT
WHOLE EXERCISE BEGAN HOUR BEHIND SCHEDULE. EXTENT TO
WHICH IT MAY BE SEEN AS HELPFUL TO REGIME IS AT BEST
DEBATABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON OCT 12 PRESIDENT NIMEIRI SPOKE BEFORE A LARGE
CROWD ASSEMBLED AT AL-SHABAB STADIUM IN OMDURMAN ON
THE OCCASION OF THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS INAGURATION.
HIS COMMENTS WERE SIMILAR IN MANY WAYS TO CAMPAIGN
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SPEECHES DELIVERED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. FOCUS WAS

ON THE ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF LAST FIVE YEARS AND DEVELOPMENT. IN PARTICULAR, HE STRESSED ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN BOTH AGRICULTURE AND TRANSPORT. HE DISCUSSED MOST CURRENT ISSUES INCLUDING HIS CONTROVERSIAL REORGANIZATION OF SPORTS ACTIVITIES, WHICH ALIENATED THE FANS OF KHARTOUM'S TWO MOST POPULAR FOOTBALL CLUBS. ON THIS CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE, HE TYPICALLY DID NOT BUDGE, GREATLY DISAPPOINTING CROWD'S HOPES.

2. COMMENT: NIMEIRI'S RECITAL OF ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS WAS RECEIVED WITHOUT POPULAR ENTHUSIASM. BY AND LARGE THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS (E.G. DOUBLING OF LOCAL SUGAR PRODUCTION) HAVE NOT YET DIRECTLY AFFECTED THE POPULACE WHO ARE CONFRONTED BY RECURRING SHORTAGES OF BASIC COMMODITIES, FROZEN WAGES, AND SPIRALLING LIVING COSTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, HIS SPEECH WAS REMARKABLE FOR WHAT WAS NOT SAID. NIMEIRI MADE NO EXTRAVAGANT PROMISES ABOUT WAGES OR OTHER ISSUES THAT IMPACT DIRECTLY ON ELECTORATE. HIS FAILURE TO HOLD OUT BENEFITS FOR WORKERS AND CONSUMERS MAY BE SEEN AS FAVORABLE SIGN THAT GOS IS SERIOUS ABOUT PUBLIC SECTOR FISCAL REFORMS WHICH ARE BEING ADVOCATED BY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. HOWEVER, CROW MELTED AWAY BOTH LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY DURING STATISTIC-STUDDERED PRESENTATION THAT LASTED HOUR AND ONE-HALF.

3. REMARKS ON FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS WERE MODERATE AND PREDICTABLE. HE TOUCHED LIGHTLY UPON MOST OF THE TRADITIONAL THEMES OF ARAB RHETORIC, BUT PARTICULARLY STRESSED SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT SADAT AND KING KHALID. ON AFRICAN ISSUES, HE MENTIONED THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA IN A FAVORABLE CONTEXT, NOTING THAT SUDAN FAVORS "MAINTENANCE OF RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS IN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO ORIGIN OR COLOR." TEXT BEING POUCHED TO AF/E. BREWER

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